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Letter from Representative Burdick to Bigelow Neal Regarding Garrison Dam Pool Level, August 18, 1950

Usher L. Burdick
United States House of Representatives

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268 Mayflower Hotel
Washington, D.C.
August 18, 1950

Mr. Bigelow Neal
Sanish, North Dakota

Dear Bigelow:

Mr. Robert G. Lassiter has very kindly shown me your letter addressed to him under date of August 9, and I have read your reservations in the answer you made to him. I commend you for this precaution because we don't always know who we are dealing with, but in this instance you can rely absolutely on the honor and integrity of Mr. Lassiter as he is a man of great experience in mining and building operations and is an outstanding character in both enterprises/

I don't know just exactly what he wants you to furnish him as I have received no details, but whatever it is you are perfectly safe in furnishing him anything that you can, because as I understand the situation from oral conversations, the Army Engineers are trying to push upon the people of the South the same thing they pushed unto us in North Dakota. I have explained to Mr. Lassiter and his friends here today that we are not going to take it sitting down in our case; that the law authorizes a 17,000,000 acre pool and no more. If the Army Engineers ever attempt to flood the land above that level just above the 1830' above sea level, they will be met head on with an injunction order which I as a lawyer would assert and which will stand up in court. Certainly they can't go beyond the law. That is exactly what they are trying to do with us, and I presume the same thing applies to the people of the South that Mr. Lassiter is interested in, so go to it Neal, and help them all you can.

Sincerely yours,

Usher L. Burdick.m.c.

U.L.B./csc